

From: Ernest A. Beier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 4:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U. S. Justice Department
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

We would like to take a moment to express our opinions regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. The settlement reached by your Department was fair and reasonable, and is sufficient enough to end this case. We see no need for further action at the federal level, especially while Microsoft is involved in negotiations with the remaining states to reach a conclusion.

Microsoft has made concessions that have set a new antitrust precedent. The company will more or less allow the success of Windows to be a launchpad for the competitions' programs. Under the current agreement, Microsoft will allow computer makers to manipulate Windows to allow non-Microsoft programs to compete with Microsoft's programs. Most importantly, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against any company that engineers programs that compete directly with Microsoft. We fear that this case has had a rather negative impact on the IT industry as a whole and the economy. Putting this case behind us could have only positive ramifications on the market, and would ensure our country's place as the world technology leader.

Sincerely,

Ernest A. Beier, Jr.

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